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URBAN DISTRICT OF PRESCOT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1972

PRESCOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
for the year 1972

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. F.W. Bunting, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., Divisional Medical Officer, Health Division No. 9, Lancashire County Council, Health Centre, Kingsway, WIDNES, Lancs. (Tel. WIDNES 3055)
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. J.B. Clarke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G., D.Obst., M.S.C.M.
Chief Public Health Inspector	Mr. J.N. Adams, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector:	Mr. H. Potts, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

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The Chairman and Members of
The Prescot Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Prescot Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1972. I am happy to report that the health of the Community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The number of live births during the year was 183 which was a considerable reduction from 230 in 1971. The adjusted rate, however, is higher than the national rate per 1000 population. The death rate at 16.1 per 1000 population showed an increase compared with the previous year. There was an increase in the Infant Mortality rate, but a decrease in the number of Still Births.

There was an increase in the number of cases of measles reported, from 32 in 1971 to 55 in 1972. The incidence of other types of infectious disease was lower than the previous year, there were no cases of whooping cough or infective jaundice.

Improvement Grants have continued to play a major part of the work of the Department. The Council are to be congratulated in supporting this work which is of vital importance to raise the living and environmental standard of the district.

I would like to acknowledge the necessary help and co-operation of the Officers and Councillors during the year.

I am Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F.W. Bunting

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District in Acres	875
Population of Census, 1971	12,650
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid 1972	12,500
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1972	4,296
Rateable Value	£239,308
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£6,392

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year (Registrar General)

Live Births	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	96	74	170
Illegitimate	4	9	13
	100	83	183

Live Births Rate per 1,000 population:-

	PRESCOT U.D.C.	ENGLAND & WALES
Crude Rate	14.6	14.8
Adjusted Rate	16.1	14.8

Mortality Rates per 1,000 population:-

Total (all forms)	PRESCOT U.D.C.	ENGLAND & WALES
Crude Rate	14.3	12.1
Adjusted Rate	15.9	12.1

	PRESCOT U.D.C.	ENGLAND & WALES
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	5	12
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 total births	22	17
Neo-Natal mortalityrate per 1,000 live births (under 4 weeks)	16	12
Early Neo-natal (under 1 week) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	16	10

Analysis of Deaths		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Still Births	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Maternal deaths				
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age				
	Legitimate	2	2	4
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age				
	Legitimate	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 weeks of age				
	Legitimate	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PRESCOT URBAN DISTRICT, 1972

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	1
Late effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	8
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2
Anaemias	1	1
Mental Disorders	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	3
Hypertensive Disease	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	28	14
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	8	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	3
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	4	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	5
Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Other diseases of Digestive System	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All other accidents	1	-

TOTAL ALL CAUSES 179

COMPARISON of VITAL STATISTICS for the PERIOD 1967 - 1972

	Live Births		Deaths (All Cases)		Maternal Mortality		Stillbirths		Infant Mortality			
											Neo-Natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths reg.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1972	183	14.6	179	14.3	NIL	NIL	1	5	4	22	3	16
Year 1971	230	18.2	141	11.1	NIL	NIL	4	17	2	9	2	9
Year 1970	218	16.6	152	11.6	NIL	NIL	2	9	5	23	4	18
Year 1969	119	16.8	154	11.7	NIL	NIL	1	4	7	32	2	18
Year 1968	218	15.6	161	12.1	NIL	NIL	3	14	6	28	6	28
Year 1967	239	17.9	162	12.1	NIL	NIL	4	16	7	29	4	16.7
Average 5 years 1967-1971	204	17.0	154	11.7	NIL	NIL	2	12	5	24.2	3	17.9
					Adjusted	(live birth rate (comparability factor 1.10). (death rate (comparability factor, 1.11).						

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1972

DISEASE	TOTAL	UNDER 1 YEAR	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	AGE UNKNOWN
Measles	55	4	8	2	8	7	19	1	4	—	2
Dysentry	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	6	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning (suspected)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the District is obtained from the Corporation of Liverpool and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The District has adequate facilities to a sewage works using hydrolytic tanks and bacterial filters.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are no privy middens or pail closets existing in the area all households have adequate waterclosets.

HOUSING

During the year the local authority completed the erection of 51 flats; 13 houses were erected in the private sector.

No House in the area is used as a common lodging house.

There are no moveable dwellings or camping sites in the area.

During the year, the number of inspections of premises were as follows:-

Number of premises visited	1539
Number of visits	2624
Number of Defects or Nuisances	37
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated	34
Number of Notices served - Informal	37
Number of Notices served - Statutory	3

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1209

   (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 2006

   (c) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit. 469

2. Number of dwellings existing at the end of the year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which,

   (a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made 50

   (b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made Nil

3. Houses demolished:

   (a) In or adjoining Clearance Areas being unfit for human habitation 59

   (b) Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas but as a result of action under Section 16 or 17(1) Housing Acts, 1957. 4

4. Unfit House Closed under Section 16 (4), Section 17(1), and Section 35 (1) Housing Act 1957 and section 26 Housing Acts 1961. 1

5. Unfit House made fit.

   (a) By the owner after informal action 90

   (b) After formal notice under Public Health Acts. 3

   (c) After determination of a demolition order under Section 24 Housing Act 1957. Nil

6. Purchase of houses by agreement, in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed order or compulsory purchase orders. Nil.

CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Twenty two houses in Cook Street were represented to Council as a Clearance Area towards the end of the year. Following the withdrawal of objections, this was confirmed during 1973 without amendments.

HOUSING ACT, 1969

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS	OWNER/OCCUPIER	OTHERS
1. Applications submitted by private individuals	339	79
2. Number approved	339	79
3. Number completedduring the year	266	22
4. Amount of grant paid	£217,332	

STANDARD GRANTS		
1. Applications submitted by private individuals	22	12
2. Number approved	22	12
3. Number completed during the year	22	4
4. Amount of grant paid	£11,098	

The response of owner occupiers and landlords in the private sector to the offer of 75% grants for the improvement and repair of houses put considerable pressure upon the department during the year. Owners accepted the unique offer of grants to the extent that 452 were approved during the year compared to 109 in 1971 and only 39 in 1970.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The following is a list of food premises in the district:-

Grocers	50
Green Grocers	15
Fishmongers	1
Butchers	17
Bakers and Confectioners	8
Fried Fish Shops	8
Ice Cream, sweets, confectionery	21
Licensed premises, restaurants etc.	21

Detailed inspections of all these premises have been carried out.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED PREMISES

Offices	25
Retail Shops	90
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	Nil
Catering establishments, canteens	21
Fuel storage depots	Nil

NUMBER OF NEWLY REGISTERED PREMISES DURING THE YEAR

Offices	1
Retail Shops	Nil
Catering establishments, canteens	1

NUMBER OF VISITS TO PREMISES - 98

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES

Offices	422
Retail Shops	498
Catering establishments, canteens	62

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PREMISES	NO. ON REGISTER	INSPECTIONS	NOTICES
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	20	20	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced.	Nil	Nil	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				
PARTICULARS	FOUND	REMEDIED	REFERENCE	
			To H.M.	By H.M.
Sanitary convenience unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.
There are no registered out workers in the area.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Three Smoke Control Orders are in force in the area involving 1,141 premises and covering some 123.52 acres. There were no Orders submitted to the Ministry during the current year.

The decision to concentrate on house improvement has meant that no action has been possible in the field of smoke control areas. Whilst it is regretable that it has thus been impossible to maintain the former programme, it is felt that this decision was the right one.

The provision of heating appliances with grants in the General Improvement Area and the gas central heating in the improved Council Houses will result in future smoke control areas.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1961

Six complaints were received with regard to general community noise which were becoming a nuisance to neighbours. These included complaints of noisy dogs and noise arising in a launderette.

During the year measurements were taken of the decibel readings at points adjacent to houses where complaints had been made about noise from the B.I.C.C. Ltd. It was determined that in two areas, South Avenue and Manchester Road, that a statutory nuisance was being caused. Considerable discussion at Officer and Councillor level with the Company went on but met with limited success in the reduction of the noise levels.

Technical difficulties in reducing the noise at source or at reception in the homes, was studied in depth. It is hoped that some success will be possible following further proposals.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Total number of complaints of rat sightings in or around premises	84
Number of visits	178
Total number of complaints of mice infestation	53
Number of visits	143

30% of the sewer manholes were baited with fluroacetamide (an acute acting poison) for the second time in 3 years. No takes were recorded.